President.—The moment it is published it is answered. So long as we keep these things secret, it is not answered. The moment it is published it is answered.

Have you come to any finality in regard to this matter? Let us do as we have been doing up till now.

37. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—(a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to newspaper criticisms condemning their plicy in appointing Capt. A. R. Puduval, second grade Assistant Surgeon, to act for the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer during his absence on leave ;

(b) will the Government be pleased to state their justification for overlooking the claims of Dr. D. R. Rao, the legitimate claimant therefor ;

(c) whether Dr. Rao's appointment was not made in 1083 and that of Dr. Puduval in 1097;

(d) whether Dr. Rao, with 18 years' Government service is now drawing a monthly salary of Rs. 500 for over the past 4 years, instead of Dr. Puduval drawing Rs. 290 with only 4 years' total service;

(e) whether the present acting appointment was recommended by the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer;

(f) whether such promotions in utter disregard of legitimate claims will not create a discontented service, and; whether it is justifiable in the interests of public justice and safety;

(g) whether the appointment will be considered a precedent in filling up the next permanent vacancy of the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer when it occurs?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Veghese.—(a) Yes.

(b) Vide answer 36.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) No acting arrangement was recommended by the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer.

(f) No promotion was given in the present case.

(g) No acting appointment was made in this instance, and hence no answer is called for.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Acting arrangements were recommended, it is said. What kind of arrangement was it that was recommended?

President.—"In charge arrangements". I suppose, you have not understood what is meant by "in charge arrangements" and "acting arrangements". Here Dr. A. R. Puduval does all

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the work; he is to be in charge of the Hospital without prejudice to his own duties.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I think this will not become a claim for his promotion at a future date?

President.—That we cannot say. Does that question arise?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the appointment be considered a precedent in filling up a permanent vacancy?

President.—We cannot commit ourselves to anything like that in the matter of making appointments. When the time comes for making appointments, we take all the relevant circumstances into consideration. A vacancy may arise two years hence, and for that we cannot bind any one with any ruling of ours. The Government must be given ample discretion to act in the best way they like in the matter of making appointments.

The volunteers in the Trichur Hospital.

38. **Dr. A. G. Menon.**—With reference to answer given to question 12 (b) of the budget session, will the Government be pleased to state from what date to what date Messrs. K. C. Rappai and V. K. Govinda Menon were working as volunteers?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Mr. K. C. Rappai from 1—11—1099 to 14—6—1101.

Mr. V.K.Govinda Menon from 25—8—1100 to 16—4—1101.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In answer to a supplementary question I put, it was given out that the questions and answers were supplied to officials beforehand.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—Questions and answers were supplied to the official members a day previous, so as to enable them to get ready the answers for the supplementary questions likely to be put by the members.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I beg to bring to your notice that it is not according to the rules, since questions and answers are to be supplied only an hour before the commencement of the meeting to all the members alike.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—They were not supplied with questions and answers as official members of this Council, but in their capacity of Heads of Departments.

President.—Was this answer before you when that answer was prepared?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—No, Sir.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—Suppose I have to answer certain questions to-morrow. In order that I may be ready with the answers to supplementary questions, I may be supplied with a copy of the questions and answers.

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